

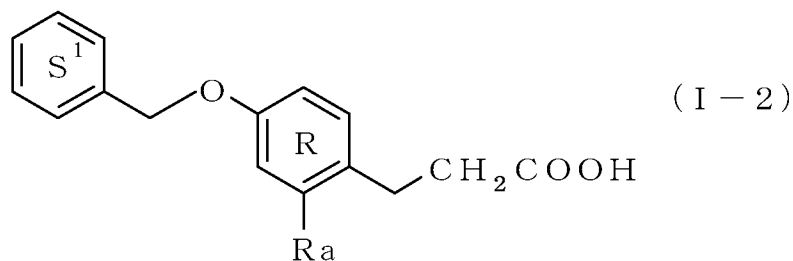
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 12. (Cancelled)

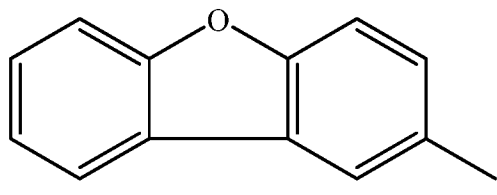
13. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula



wherein ring S¹ is a benzene ring having ~~substituent(s) having a benzene ring, wherein the~~
~~substituent(s) having a benzene ring~~ is a substituent represented by the formula: R¹¹-E²- ,
wherein {

R¹¹ is a phenyl group, an indanyl group or a naphthyl group, each optionally having
substituent(s), and

E² is a bond or a spacer), ~~and the spacer represented by E² is -(CH₂)^{m¹}-W¹-(CH₂)^{m²}-~~
, wherein {m¹ and m² are each an integer of 0 to 3, W¹ is -O-, -N(R²)-, -S-, -CO- or -
CO-N(R³)-, and R² and R³ are each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group}, or R¹¹
optionally forms, together with E² and ring S¹,



, and

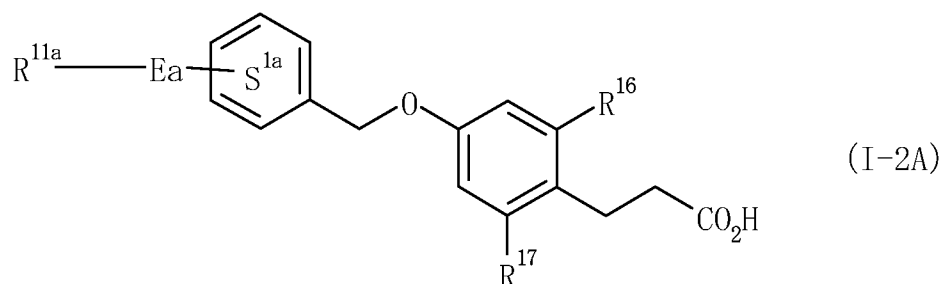
ring S¹ optionally further has substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkoxy group, a halogen atom and a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group;

ring R is a phenylene group optionally further having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a halogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group and a hydroxy group;
and

Ra is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group ~~or a substituent;~~ or a salt thereof.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) ~~The A compound of claim 13, which is represented by the formula~~



wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having 1 or 2 substituents, Ea is a bond, an oxygen atom or an optionally substituted methylene, ring S^{1a} is a benzene ring optionally further having substituent(s) selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkoxy group and a halogen atom, and R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group;
or a salt thereof.

17. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 16, wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl

group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkoxy group and a halogen atom; Ea is a bond, an oxygen atom or a methylene; and R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom.

18. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 17, wherein Ea is a bond.

19. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 17, wherein R¹⁶ is a hydrogen atom, and R¹⁷ is a fluorine atom.

20. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 16, wherein the partial structural formula

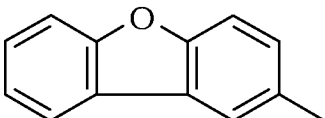


21. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 20, wherein R^{11a} is a phenyl group having two substituents selected from an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkoxy group and a halogen atom; Ea is a bond; and ring S^{1a} is a benzene ring without additional substituent.

22. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 13, wherein the ~~substituent(s) having a benzene ring is a substituent represented by the formula: R¹¹-E²-~~ (R¹¹ ~~is a phenyl group, an indanyl group or a naphthyl group, each optionally having~~ substituent(s), and E² ~~is a bond or a spacer~~), ring S¹ is optionally further has substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and R¹¹ ~~optionally forms a ring together with E² and ring S¹.~~

23. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 13, wherein R¹¹ is a phenyl group or an indanyl group, each optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro, a carboxy, an optionally halogenated C₁₋₆

alkyl, a hydroxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl, a carboxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonylamino-C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkoxy, a C₆₋₁₄ aryl, a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy and a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy, E² is a bond, -O-, -CH₂-O-, -CO-, -CONH-, -N(CH₃)CH₂-, -S-CH₂- or -C=C-, ring S¹ is optionally further has substituted by a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or ~~the ring formed by R¹¹ optionally forms, together with E² and ring S¹, is~~



~~the substituent that ring R~~ is a phenylene group optionally has is further having a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and
Ra is a hydrogen atom.

24. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16, ~~or a salt thereof~~.

35. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method of regulating a GPR40 receptor function, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16 ~~or a salt thereof~~ to a mammal.

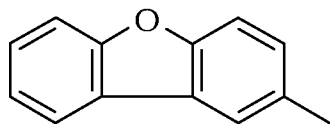
36. (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A screening method for a ligand, agonist or antagonist to GPR40, which comprises using GPR40 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and the compound or salt of claim 13 ~~or a salt thereof~~ or 16.

38. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A kit for screening a ligand, agonist or antagonist to GPR40, which comprises GPR40 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof, and the compound or salt of claim 13 or 16 ~~or a salt thereof~~.

39. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim ~~22~~13, wherein R¹¹ is a phenyl group or an indanyl group, each optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a nitro, a carboxy, an optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkyl, a hydroxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl, a carboxy-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonylamino-C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkoxy, a C₆₋₁₄ aryl, a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy and a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy; E² is a bond, -O-, or -CH₂-O;

ring S¹ is optionally further ~~substituted by~~ has a C₁₋₆ alkyl group;
~~the ring formed by R¹¹ optionally forms,~~ together with E² and ring S¹, is



~~the substituent that ring R~~ is a phenylene group optionally has further having is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group; and

R_a is a hydrogen atom.